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From: Brooke W. Quist Date: December 1, 2004  
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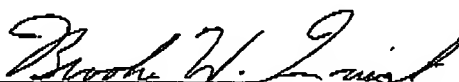
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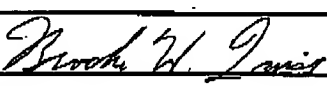
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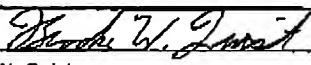
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BRMFSLA 48975v1

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>	Application Number		09/904,081
	Filing Date		July 12, 2001
	First Named Inventor		Lawrence C. Cole
	Art Unit		3714
	Examiner Name		Corbett B. Coburn
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)			
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	
		10407/640	

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Firm	Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner LLP		
Signature			
Printed Name	Brooke W. Quist		
Date	12/01/2004	Reg. No.	45,030

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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10407/640

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cole et al.  
Serial No.: 09/904,061 Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn  
Filed: July 12, 2001 Group Art Unit: 3714  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALLOWING  
UNINTERRUPTED GAMING

Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the first and final Office Action of September 8, 2004, and is timely filed.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-19, 22-25, 27-33, 35-44, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,461) in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Bell et al., and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104). Claims 20, 21, 26, 34, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333), and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104).

Claims 1, 11, 23, 24, 29, and 36 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Claims 48-50 were previously deleted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected specification and claims. Applicant respectfully contends that the differences between

Atty Docket No.: 10407/640  
Serial No. 09/904,061

the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.

Additionally, the Examiner has issued a final first-action Office Action in reply to the Applicants filing of a Request for Continued Examination, stating that no new search was required in support of the final Office Action. However, Applicants filed the Request for Continued Examination in response to the Examiner's statements in the Telephonic Interview summary of May 27, 2003, which stated that a new search would be required in order to procure examination of the amended claims that were submitted. As such, Applicants submit that a final first-action, Office Action is not proper in this situation and request withdrawal of the final action, Office Action.